

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, and 8 are now pending in the application. Claims 2, 3, and 7 *are* cancelled and new claim 8 is added herein. Claims 1 and 6 are currently amended; no new matter has been added. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

PRIORITY DOCUMENT

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging receipt of the foreign priority document JP 2004-019346, filed on January 28, 2004. However, the Office Action appears to propose that in order to benefit from an earlier filing date, a certified English translation is *a/ways* required. Applicant understands from 35 U.S.C. §§ 119(b)(3) and 372(b)(3), and 37 CFR § 1.55(a)(4) that a certified copy is not required except when the application is involved in an interference, when necessary to overcome the date of a reference relied upon by the Examiner, or specifically required by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests clarification that a certified copy is indeed being specifically required in this instance. If specifically required, Applicant will file the same prior to the payment of an issue fee, according to 37 CFR § 1.55(a)(2).

CLAIM OBJECTION

Claim 6 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper multiple dependent form. Claim 6 has been amended to remove the multiple dependencies. Reconsideration is respectfully requested that claim 6 be treated on its merits.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Uenishi et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,673,512). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicant notes that independent claim 1 has been amended to recite the specific use of a glycoluril cross-linking agent as a cross-linking agent and further recites an acidic component selected from a group consisting of phenylsulfonic acid, salicylic acid, phosphonic acid, phenylphosphonic acid, benzoic acid, and valeric acid. Proper antecedent support for these amendments can be found at least in paragraphs [0026], [0029], [0030], and [0041] of the specification and claim 2 as originally filed. Claims 2, 3, and 7 have been cancelled. New claim 8 further recites that the cross-linking agent is tetrabutoxymethyl-glycoluril as disclosed in paragraph [0026] of the specification as originally filed. Applicant respectfully maintains that *Uenishi et al.* do not teach, suggest, or disclose such a composition with these specific components.

A composition having the specific components as recited in the pending claims provides means for adjusting the sensitivity of the negative resist compositions. Further, it enables the optimization of the diffusion capacity of the acid derived from a specifically structured onium salt. As discussed in paragraph [0044] of the specification, it has been found that such a composition provides an excellent resist pattern of 280 nm L/S (as determined via a scanning electron microscope) with no roughness being observed. This resist pattern additionally has excellent lithographic characteristics, such as the resolution. Additionally, the negated or reduced roughness minimizes the

potential dispersion (anisotropy) of development media, such as etching gas, which helps prevent failure.

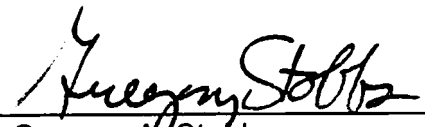
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that each of claims 1, 6, and 8 is patentable over the cited reference for at least the reasons discussed above. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal and reconsideration of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
Gregory A. Stobbs
Reg. No. 28,764

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

GAS/AEP/lc